

the 25th Chief of Naval Operations in April 1994. Prior to his confirmation as Chief of Naval Operations, he commanded all United States and NATO forces in Bosnia. As ranking minority and now Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I had the opportunity to work closely with Adm. Mike Boorda on many occasions. I found him to be an officer of great professional skill, who instilled confidence and stood as a model of what a dedicated and courageous officer and leader should be.

Admiral Boorda took command of the Navy at a challenging time. His steady hand and firm leadership during a period of great change, a turbulent period of declining force structure and personnel reductions, and his firm commitment to professionalism and operational readiness, have kept the Navy on a steady course and sustained its excellence as a fighting force.

Particularly impressive was the empathy and concern that Adm. Mike Boorda had for those under his command. As a former enlisted sailor, he had a keen appreciation of the hardships of service at sea and family separation that are a part of a sailor's daily existence. He understood their sacrifice and worked extremely hard to ensure the welfare of naval personnel. He never failed to advise me on conditions in the fleet during our frequent meetings. His concern for the quality of life of the men and women in the naval service was remarkable.

During more than 40 years of service to the Navy and to his country, Adm. Mike Boorda made many extraordinary contributions to his country. He was a man of great energy, vision, commitment, and patriotism. He was a man who deserved our gratitude and respect for his service while he lived, and our praise and prayers now that he is gone. We will miss him greatly.

Our thoughts are with his family, his wife Betty, his four children, and his nine grandchildren. They include two sons and one daughter-in-law on active duty in the Navy. We extend our sympathy to them and wish them well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The Senate continued with consideration of the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, let me say to fellow Senators there will be additional votes tonight, but we are now trying to work on some aspects of handling this in a more expeditious and orderly manner. We will do that for the

next hour and 30 minutes. There will be no votes before 8 o'clock.

I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask that it be charged to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADMIRAL BOORDA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am saddened, as my colleagues are, by the news we just received about Admiral Boorda's death. His loss is a tragedy for the Navy, the Armed Forces, and for the entire Nation.

Admiral Boorda was an outstanding leader and had the best possible qualifications to be Chief of Naval Operations because he rose through the ranks. He entered the Navy as an enlisted man in 1956. He is the only enlisted person ever to reach that high position.

As ranking member of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower, I had the privilege of working with Admiral Boorda for several years. I had great admiration for his knowledge, skill, leadership and dedication. President Kennedy was a Navy man, too, and he said at the Naval Academy in 1962:

I can imagine a no more rewarding career of any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile. I think I can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: I served in the U.S. Navy.

Admiral Boorda's life and career exemplify the best in that tradition. I join the Navy and the Nation in mourning its loss, and express my deepest condolences to his wife, Betty, and to his entire family.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time will be equally divided, and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADMIRAL BOORDA

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I associate myself with the remarks made by the Senator from Massachusetts, having just recently learned of the tragic death of the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Boorda. Admiral Boorda was a native of Indiana and had a distinguished military career, rose to the very top as Chief of Naval Operations. As chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee, I had numerous discussions

and meetings with him, so I felt that I got to know him as well as you can in a busy Washington and all the busy activities we are involved in.

I was shocked by the news, deeply saddened by the news, and concerned for his family. While we do not have all the details of his death, I think we all feel the sense of grief that comes with this type of an announcement.

Admiral Boorda came into leadership at a difficult time for the U.S. Navy. Many changes have taken place in the Navy that brought to his desk a number of problems that were difficult problems to deal with. Yet, he did so with skill and did so with great thoroughness and determination to seek a proper solution.

So, Mr. President, I intend to say more later about Admiral Boorda and his career and service to this Nation. But I join with those in saying how shocked and saddened we are with this particular announcement.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEATH OF ADMIRAL BOORDA

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I, too, want to join my Senate colleagues in expressing how profoundly saddened we are about the death of Adm. Mike Boorda, Chief of Naval Operations. He was truly one of the most impressive figures who has ever been selected to serve as Chief of Naval Operations. He rose from the ranks of the enlisted personnel to become an officer, and not only that, but the highest-ranking officer in the U.S. Navy. He brought to that job an enthusiasm for the work, a love for the Navy, and a respect for everyone in the Navy that was unparalleled.

I recall very clearly a visit that I had the good fortune to make with him to the Meridian Naval Air Station in Meridian, MS. He gone down to our State and was visiting other States in the South looking at naval installations. He visited the Pascagoula base on the gulf coast. I was with him in Meridian when, after a tour of the naval air station, he wanted an opportunity to meet with everybody on the air station. So a meeting was called and everyone was invited. All hands were invited to come see the Chief of Naval Operations in the gymnasium there on the base.

He talked to everyone. He had a hand-held mike. He walked out in the middle of the gymnasium, as people were seated in the stands all around. After his remarks, without any notes at all, he took questions and he was asked questions about everything from pay allowance issues, to housing, to the status of some repair contracts on Navy fighter aircraft, to the status of trainers, and how long they would remain in service. He knew something about everything that he was asked